

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-1014V

Filed: November 19, 2015

Unpublished

ANN MARIE PLASTINO,
Executor of the Estate of
ALFRED PLASTINO,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Attorney Fees and Costs; Stipulation

Edward M. Kraus, Esq., Law Offices of Chicago Kent, Chicago, IL, for petitioner.

Claudia B. Gangi, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On October 20, 2014, Ann Marie Plastino, as executor of the Estate of Alfred Plastino [“Mr. Plastino”], filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² [the “Vaccine Act” or “Program”]. Petitioner alleged that Mr. Plastino suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), acute respiratory failure, acute kidney failure, hyperkalemia, hypotension, acute cardiopulmonary arrest, and death resulting from the influenza vaccine he received on November 7, 2013. Petition at 1. On August 18, 2015, a decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on the parties’ stipulation was issued.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioners have 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2006).

On November 19, 2015, the parties filed a Stipulation of Facts Regarding Final Attorneys' Fees and Costs. According to the stipulation, the parties agree upon an award of \$13,420.18 for attorney's fees and costs and \$1,798.00 for petitioner's out-of-pocket litigation expenses. In accordance with General Order #9, petitioner's counsel represents that petitioner incurred \$1,798.00 in out-of-pocket expenses in this case. Stipulation, ¶ 4.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-15(e). The proposed amount is reasonable.

Accordingly, I award the total of \$15,218.18³ as follows:

1. a check in the amount of \$13,420.18 jointly payable to petitioner and petitioner's counsel Edward Kraus and

2. A check in the amount of \$1,798.00 solely payable to petitioner.

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See *generally Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

⁴ Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).